

## AMENDMENT

Please amend the specification as follows.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 27, line 3 with the following.

-- Due to the highly informative nature of mono-nucleotide repeat loci in determining MSI phenotype, we also investigated poly (A) regions of the human genome as a new source of markers for MSI assays. To accomplish this, mono-nucleotide repeats were identified from GenBank (~~http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/~~) using BLASTN (Altschul, *et al.* 1990 *J. Mol. Biol.* 215:402-410) searches for (A)<sub>30</sub>(N)<sub>30</sub> sequences. The (N)<sub>30</sub> sequence was added to eliminate frequent mRNA hits and to assure that flanking sequence was available for designing primers for PCR. Next, flanking primers were designed for 33 GenBank DNA sequences using Oligo Primer Analysis Software version 6.0 (National Biosciences, Inc., Plymouth, MN) to amplify the region containing the poly (A) repeat. Evaluation of loci was performed using 9 MSI-H and 30 MSS colon cancer samples and corresponding normal DNA samples. Protocols for PCR, detection and analysis are described in Example 1.--